

Application No.: 10/824,385

Attorney Docket No.: 20402-00621-US1

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-34 (Canceled)

35. (Currently amended) A pneumatic tool comprising a circular cylinder, a piston slidably accommodated in said circular cylinder, a driver blade integrally formed with said piston, and a sleeve valve portion for driving said piston when compression air is ~~supplied from an accumulator chamber~~ discharged from a sleeve valve chamber via a trigger valve portion, wherein

said trigger valve portion further comprising:

a plunger shifting in response to a trigger operation by a user;

a valve piston ~~having a surface allowing a slide movement relative to~~ slidably supporting said plunger and shifting in a direction opposed to a shifting direction of said plunger; and

a valve bush ~~having a surface~~ slidably supporting said plunger and said valve piston so as to allow slide movements of said plunger and said valve piston, and

a seal member provided on a first surface formed on one of said valve piston and said plunger ~~causing a slide movement relative to said valve piston~~; and

combined grooves and ridges formed on a second surface formed on the other one of said valve piston and said plunger, said second surface opposing to said first surface,

wherein said ridges slidably hold said seal member and at the same time said grooves cooperatively define an air passage between said valve piston and said plunger.

36. (Currently amended) The pneumatic tool in accordance with claim ~~[[1]]~~ 35, wherein said ridges cooperatively define an effective diameter of a guide along which said seal member is guided, and said grooves define an effective area of a relief passage of said compression air.

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37. (Currently amended) The pneumatic tool in accordance with claim ~~[[1]]~~ 35, wherein said grooves and ridges are arranged alternately and extend in an axial direction of said plunger.

38. (Currently amended) A pneumatic tool comprising a circular cylinder, a piston slidably accommodated in said circular cylinder, a driver blade integrally formed with said piston, and a sleeve valve portion for driving said piston when compression air is ~~supplied from an accumulator chamber~~ discharged from a sleeve valve chamber via a trigger valve portion, wherein

said trigger valve portion further comprising:

a plunger shifting in response to a trigger operation by a user;

a valve piston ~~having a surface allowing a slide movement relative to~~ slidably supporting said plunger and shifting in a direction opposed to a shifting direction of said plunger; and

a valve bush ~~having a surface~~ slidably supporting said plunger and said valve piston so as to allow slide movements of said plunger and said valve piston;

a seal member provided on a first surface formed on either said valve bush or one of said plunger and said valve piston ~~causing a slide movement relative to said valve bush~~; and

combined grooves and ridges formed on a second surface formed on the other one of said valve bush or said one of said plunger and said valve piston, said second surface opposing to said first surface.

wherein said ridges slidably hold said seal member and at the same time said grooves cooperatively define an air passage between said valve piston and said plunger.

39. (Currently amended) The pneumatic tool in accordance with claim ~~[[4]]~~ 38, wherein said ridges cooperatively define an effective diameter of a guide along which said seal member is guided, and said grooves define an effective area of a relief passage of said compression air.

40. (Currently amended) The pneumatic tool in accordance with claim ~~[[4]]~~ 38, wherein said grooves and ridges are arranged alternately and extend in an axial direction of said plunger.

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41. (New) A pneumatic tool comprising a circular cylinder, a piston slidably accommodated in said circular cylinder, a driver blade integrally formed with said piston, and a sleeve valve portion for driving said piston when compression air is discharged from a sleeve valve chamber via a trigger valve portion, wherein

said trigger valve portion further comprises:

a plunger shifting in response to a trigger operation by a user;

a valve piston slidably supporting said plunger;

a valve bush slidably supporting said plunger and said valve piston;

a seal member provided on a first surface formed on at least one of said plunger, said valve piston, and said valve bush; and

combined grooves and ridges formed on a second surface opposing to said first surface, said second surface being formed on one of said plunger, said valve piston, and said valve bush;

wherein said ridges slidably hold said seal member and at the same time said grooves cooperatively define an air passage between said first surface and said second surface.

42. (New) The pneumatic tool in accordance with claim 41, wherein said ridges cooperatively define an effective diameter of a guide along which said seal member is guided, and said grooves define an effective area of a relief passage of said compression air.

43. (New) The pneumatic tool in accordance with claim 41, wherein said grooves and ridges are arranged alternately and extend in an axial direction of said plunger.